From:	Miriam Goldstein
To:	Siddiqui, Sumbul
Subject:	Please speak out against BDS and unfair singling out of Israel and HP!
Date:	Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:01:14 PM

Dear Ms. Siddiqui,

I am a proud graduate of Harvard College (A.B. 1999) and a professor of Arabic literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I have been happy to spend my sabbatical year with my family in this wonderful town of Cambridge, and we are all having an enriching year with my kids in wonderful Cambridge public schools and preschools (we love Fletcher Maynard!).

I was shocked and disappointed to hear about the current BDS resolution being considered by the Cambridge City Council.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace - and, indeed, calls for the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state! There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. I am myself among these, and teach mixed classroom of Muslims and Jews in my hometown of Jerusalem. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

I hope that you will read about the BDS movement and perhaps some of the history of the state of Israel, if you have not already - a state that since its War of Independence in 1948 has been fighting for its life against those who hope to destroy it and thus extinguish the only true democracy and place where Jews, Christians, Muslims, people of color, LBGTQ and many others can find a safe place to live.

I believe that once you have read and learned about the situation, you will understand why the City of Cambridge should not align itself with such anti-peace and anti-Semitic movements like BDS.

Thank you for reading, and best regards.

Prof. Miriam Goldstein
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